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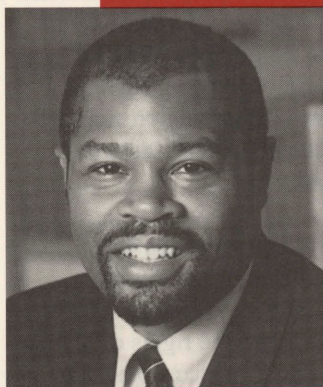
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Into Africa: An Introduction to the Southern Africa Exchange Program

by Professor Kevin Brown

The Southern Africa Exchange Program is intended to bring Indiana University law students and religious and philanthropic organizations together for a positive contribution to some of the poorest places in the world. For four weeks students are given an introduction to living in Mozambique, Northern Namibia or Soweto by the religious and community leaders who live there and who are trying to improve conditions for their neighbors and themselves. Students learn lessons about life, not about law. The program is not intended to provide for the training of international lawyers, but the creation of humanitarians who happen to be lawyers.

Over the past two and one half years, as a Fulbright Scholar and in the process of creating a course on Law and Development in Underdeveloped Countries, I spent a considerable amount of time traveling through developing countries in Asia and Africa. The Southern Africa Exchange Program is the product of some recurring experiences and realizations that I had during those treks. International travel always reveals ways in which the reality of everyday America is structured and limited. Like a fish that doesn't comprehend the concept of water until it is stranded on a beach, an American who never leaves these shining shores doesn't understand what it is to be an American. To glimpse what it means to be an American requires a sojourn outside of America. Traveling through underdeveloped countries provides the best mirror for comprehending what it means to be an American, because it vividly reveals many of the taken for granted aspects of

everyday living of the overwhelming majority of Americans.

Without visiting an underdeveloped country, third world poverty is impossible for someone who has grown up in the "Land of Plenty" to appreciate. While Americans

know that people who live in developing countries are poor, we simply don't appreciate what that means.

Conversing with people who have been to underdeveloped countries, reading articles and books about conditions in developing countries and viewing news programs, movies and television shows does not produce an adequate appreciation of third world poverty. Sounds uttered by others, words printed on a page and two-dimensional television images reveal only the facades

of the developing world. They lack the depth and the texture of the actual three-dimensional reality of third world poverty. Words like "developing nation," "third world country," "poor nation" and "abject poverty" take on a new meaning for someone who has actually been there. People in under developed countries need assistance of all kinds. The homes seldom have electricity, running water and indoor plumbing. The schools often lack textbooks, notebook paper or writing instruments. The health clinics are under staffed and under supplied.

Even in remote rural areas where the casual traveler or tourist seldom ventures, there are unmistakable signs of respect for America. While America may be castigated and criticized for being too imperial, too wealthy, too militaristic and too decadent; she is also admired, esteemed, glorified, honored, respected



Professor Kevin Brown with two teachers in Maluana, Mozambique.

and even venerated. While half the people I met had something negative to say about America, for the other half, their life's ambition was to come to the "Land of the Free" and the "Home of the Brave."

Throughout my years of teaching, many law students have sought me out with questions about how they can get involved in public interest work. Many students come to law school believing that a fulfilling and rewarding life requires some service to humanity. The students who seek me out desire to help the underprivileged. These students are generally not concerned with their public interest work being legal, only being helpful.

Thus I saw an opportunity to bring students who wanted to make a difference, together with people who truly needed a difference to be made in their lives. Students have unique experiences as they encounter conditions in these developing countries. While the experience will be rewarding in many ways, it will also provide the student with the connections and the means to formulate their own way in which they can contribute to the betterment of humanity. After the experience, they will not have to ask me "how can I help others," they will know. The funds derived from any contributions to this program will be used to provide a rewarding experience for an Indiana University law student. My goal is to have two students visit each of the three areas: Mozambique, Northern Namibia and Soweto. As is evident from the two students who participated this year, Kenya Newhouse and LaCandas Malone, the program offers a journey of personal and professional development which in the end is the larger purpose of this Law School.

Mozambique: A Journey of Discovery

by Kenya L. Newhouse,
first-year law student

The opportunity to travel to the continent of Africa was the culmination of an academic year completed and resonant with the joy of a dream fulfilled. The completion of the first year of law school was an incredible sense of accomplishment. Having a definitive legal summer internship with the U.S. Attorney's Office was a great relief. Yet, the crowning glory was the bridge between these two endeavors—the journey to Mozambique.

The recognition that the best practice of law begins with the well-rounded development of people who will practice it is reflected in the Law School's priorities. The journey to Mozambique was both professionally and personally enlightening and significantly enhanced my "global perspective." The charge from Professor Kevin Brown was simple: full cultural immersion. This truly entailed a connection to the social, political, cultural, legal, education and economic dynamics. I felt an immediate connection to the people of this strangely familiar land.

My first link to the soil began with my arrival in Johannesburg, South Africa. Professor Brown and a fellow IU law student, LaCandas Malone, met my plane and were with me for the first part of my journey. After an eight-hour bus ride to Mozambique, over what barely could be labeled as roads, we arrived in Maputo, Mozambique, my classroom for the next month.

Mozambique was abundantly generous in the lessons I received. The Methodist Bishop for the region personally hosted me; thus I was consistently treated as an extension of the Bishop and his wife. Bernardino and Elizabeth Mandlate could not have provided a more comfortable and welcoming environment. This brought many benefits, in terms of transportation, translators and accommodations—physical and otherwise. I was asked to speak, through a Portuguese and Ronga (the predominant native language of Mozambique) translators, at every venue that the Bishop, his wife, or the President of the Methodist Church of South Africa appeared. I was treated like a dignitary on one hand, yet simultaneously embraced with an unequivocal acceptance that is inherent in relationships of comfort.



Kenya Newhouse at a technical high school in Maputo, Mozambique.

The spirit of the people of Mozambique often conceals a tragic history. The country is without question, severely impoverished and yet to begin the "turnaround" from the devastations of civil war and the exodus of the Portuguese—two very interrelated events. But, they as a culture of people have emerged so generous of spirit, politically savvy, and unhardened by the legacy of existing in a country that has been the "prey" and

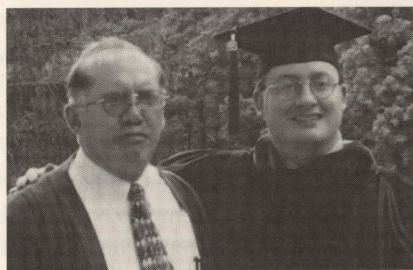
"pawn" of so many predator political forces. On a daily basis, I encountered people who walked for miles to work with equipment in tow. Children also walked great distances to attend school in four-hour shifts and whose parents paid for them to receive some morsel of a primary and secondary education. The tenacity and grace

them. Indeed, indignant at the unexpected, we do not wish to see them.”

So, then, strive to realize yourself in your fullest dimensions; seek to be serviceable to all; and retain your capacity to wonder. Do these things, and your career will be more than a way to earn money. It will be a powerful engine for personal growth and fulfillment and for good in the world.

...You have affected us for the good during your years here. Thank you for gracing our institution and our lives. May you similarly grace the larger world which you now enter.

Professor Steve R. Johnson was selected as the 1999 Gavel Award recipient. This honor is given annually by the graduating class to the faculty member who contributes the most to the progress of the Law School and its students.



Student Speaker Damon R. Leichy with his father, Ronald A. Leichy.

A Final Note to Classmates by Damon R. Leichy

The law remains a product of the intellect of imperfect creatures; and, it is those imperfect creatures that administer the law. In short, the law is the Grandchild of Creation...Despite its shortcomings, I wholeheartedly believe that the law remains the most divine of human creations. Neither art, nor literature, nor even music has the capacity to order the world into a seamless community. Granted, the law hasn't the cogency or Raphael's *The School of Athens*, or the rustic eloquence of Wordsworth, or even the inspiring power of a national anthem. But it is the law that makes these other magnificent compositions possible by forming an ordered society in which the creative spirit of individuals flourishes and in which liberty becomes such a great gift...The law becomes only as good as those beings who create it or, more important, imagine it to be. And so we must press on with the good work...Farewell and Godspeed.

Mozambique continued from page 9

by which they live exudes a higher evolved sense of being than most of us can identify because seldom are we forced to struggle on a daily basis for our very life.

The rewards were many, but two life-altering experiences began by simply questioning inhumane conditions. Prior to Professor Brown and LaCandas Malone's departure to South Africa, we ventured into one of the rural village areas to conduct interviews. During the course of that trip we stopped at an elementary school that was in the second shift, which means that the children present would be there from 2 p.m.—5 p.m. Through the conversation we discovered that the school, with over 400 elementary students, had been convening classes outside since 1942. The three one-story buildings we saw under construction, after over two years of delays, might actually become classrooms and teachers' quarters before the conclusion of this year. We were also told that the one cracked, poorly-surfaced chalkboard was on loan and would have to be returned soon. The principal had basically given up on having enough books of any type, and told us that at the minimum getting access to playing balls would at least provide the children with organized physical stimulation. The conversation further revealed that a staff member had to, several times day, literally risk injury or death, to cross a dangerous street to obtain water to facilitate the school's operation. Professor Brown, LaCandas and I surmised that \$200 would help remedy the defect in a pump which had been broken for over ten years. We donated the funds on behalf of the Law School and signed a contract to investigate the damage to the pump and purchase a few playing balls. Subsequent to my return to the United States, we have been informed that the damage was more severe, but our efforts facilitated intervention from other resources. However, additional funds are still required to complete the final repairs. What we did not recognize at the time was that once this water pump is functional not only will the school be completely operational, but the neighboring clinic and community would all now have water. The return on a few dollars and human intervention are magnified by the positive, often life-saving results. Our determination to ensure water to the school—and now the community—has started a meaningful partnership.

Second, I had the opportunity to spend memorable time with 30 young girls, ages 3-17, who resided in a shelter for street girls. These were girls who were displaced by the civil war or abandoned because of their gender, were high-spirited and so astoundingly well-adjusted. They lived in a tidy, well-organized but extremely modest shelter operated by the Counsel of Churches. But, to really know the histories and the pain their fragile lives have experienced, it becomes even more special to see how tenacious and optimistic they chose to be. They were mostly unaware of the daily struggle encountered to obtain enough food to feed them, hand-me-downs to clothe them, and books for them to attend school.

There were many moments that tested my resolve for understanding the difficult and often inhumane conditions of those who have no control over their fate. But, I have an obligation to be knowledgeable about the world and determine how I can implement change to improve this “global village.” As a future practitioner of law, it is critically important to use my education and access to advocate beyond the parameters of the law. My journey to Africa and my continued journey through Law School have collided in the most fulfilling exploration of my professional and personal development. I am extremely grateful for Professor Kevin Brown's crusade and the Law School's support at every level of implementation, and to the Office of African American Affairs and PILF for the financial assistance.

Now the journey must continue with next year's law students building on the foundation that was established and the partnerships that were cultivated.